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Washington, D. C. 20505

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13 September 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Charles G. Stefan
Director, Office of Soviet and
Eastern European Exchanges
Department of State

ATTENTION : Mr. Yale Richmond
Mr. John Kendall Ward

SUBJECT : Comments on Proposal for US/Soviet
Exchange Program in the Area of
Chemical Catalysis

REFERENCE : Memorandum from John D. Baldeschwieler,
Office of Science and Technology, dtd
22 August 1972

file Chemical Catalysis folder

Chemical Catalysis

1. This memorandum is a follow up to the informal comments on the subject proposal passed to you earlier. Because of the extremely short deadline set, we were able to obtain comments only from the Office of Scientific Intelligence of the Agency.

2. The proposed exchange program is aimed at solutions to certain environmental or ecological pollution problems which boil down to fundamental and applied aspects of catalytic oxidation. The basic problem could probably be handled best at the outset by an exchange of information both by mail and in person without the added expense of an exchange of personnel. Planning groups from the two countries together would develop complementary research to supplement and extend the information exchange. A big unresolved problem would be catalysts considered proprietary by US companies. This could adversely affect the exchange in one of the most important areas, that of automotive exhausts.

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3. The six subjects listed on the exchange program proposal could serve very well as a mechanism for establishing a good relationship between scientists of the two countries and also possibly advance the state of the art in some of the specific proposed areas. However, little is to be gained toward resolving specific environmental and ecological problems by the proposed exchanges of personnel that could not result from information exchanges and periodic meetings.

4. It would be useful to learn names of the Soviets involved in this topic.

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Special Assistant for
Exchanges

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